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NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

It is said that the crowning offense of the late Czarina of Russia was a plot to force Russia to conclude a separate peace with Germany. She was a German princess, Alix of Hesse Darmstadt, her mother the beloved Princess Alice, second daughter of Queen Victoria. Princess Alice died, when her children were young, of diphtheria contracted by kissing her dying child, whom she had nursed.

Some of the food advertisements of the large department stores in Berlin throw light on the food situation in Germany. German Forest Tea is quoted at 12 cents a packet; it is a carefully selected blend of the finest raspberry and currant leaves. Preserves and canned foods are still in evidence, but beef, veal, pork, sausages, butter, lard, eggs, cheese, rice, tea, coffee, cocoa, and chocolate have all disappeared. An enormous trade is done in canned mussels; they are advertised pickled, done in jelly and preserved in butter. Sardines are \$1.25 a box; salted goose flesh, \$1.20 a pound, and the legs smoked \$2.20 a pound. Fat conger eels are mentioned but no price is quoted.

When the French General Nivelle entered Noyon recaptured from the Germans, he was greeted with the strains of the Marseillaise. The emotion of the people was great, sobs were heard throughout the crowd. A child, her hair tied with tri-colored ribbons, offered a bouquet to the General, who took her in his arms and kissed her.

It is officially reported that fifty young girls were carried away by the Germans, ostensibly to act as officers' servants. A correspondent wrote that in the villages of Roye and Nesle the faces of the women left behind were dead faces, masklike, branded with the memories of great agonies. The children were white and thin, many of them seemed like idiots. Hunger and fear had been with them too long. Horrible stories were told that cannot be printed.

The late Duchess of Connaught, although a German princess, a daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, was loyal to her husband's country. When her husband was Governor General of Canada she supported ungrudgingly all patriotic efforts to aid the soldiers. On a machine she had installed in Government House, Ottawa, she, herself, knitted 1000 pairs of socks for the army; the thousandth pair is laid up in the archives at Ottawa.

Miss Vivian Tremaine, who nursed King George after his accident when visiting his troops at the front, in October, 1915, has been in Montreal on a short furlough. The King was quartered in a beautiful old French chateau; Miss Tremaine's duties as nurse were shared by Sister Ward, an English nurse. They went with him to England and staid at Buckingham Palace until his recovery. They crossed in the hospital ship *Anglia*, which two weeks later was torpedoed and many wounded men lost. Miss Tremaine is at present matron of the Daughters of the Empire Canadian Hospital for Officers, London.

The American Women's War Relief Fund, of which the Duchess of Marlborough is chairman, has established a hospital for officers at Lancaster Gate, London. Ambassador and Mrs. Page took part in the formal opening.

Canadian firms sent 10,000 tons of frozen meat to the British armies during the winter.

The municipality of Berlin has purchased a million pairs of men's socks, six million pairs of women's stockings and half a million pairs of children's stockings for distribution to the population of that city.

The splendid work of the Royal Army Medical Corps is proved by the disappearance of typhoid fever in the British Army. Among the millions of soldiers in France there have been only four cases. In the South African War, with a much smaller force, there were 22,000 deaths.

In Egypt, Salonica and Mesopotamia the English soldiers are not only fighting but raising food, growing salad, potatoes and other vegetables.

The refuse of the military camps is now converted into glycerine at a cost of \$250 a ton, thus supplying the Munitions Department with an invaluable material, for which otherwise it would have to pay \$1200 a ton.

At the annual meeting of the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital it was stated that atropine, which before the war could be purchased at \$5.50 an ounce, now costs over \$40 an ounce.

A ribbon on which is woven the words from the ninety-first Psalm, "Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," is given by wives and sweethearts to Russian soldiers when they join the army.

The English War Office has published a list containing the names of 1035 matrons, nurses, and other women brought to the notice of the Secretary for rendering valuable service.